SMUGGLER COVE PROVINCIAL MARINE PARK

MASTER PLAN

JULY, 1985

Mr. G. Trachuk
Director
South Coast Region
Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division

This Master Plan for Smuggler Cove Provincial Park

is submitted for your approval

M. Turner
Manager, Planning

APPROVED: G. Trachuk, Director — August 19/85
Date

RECOMMENDED: R. L. Dellabarca, District Manager — 85-8-9
Date

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PART I

A. Plan Summary

Smuggler Cove Provincial Marine Park, a 166 ha Class "A", Category 6 park located on the Sunshine Coast near Secret Cove, was established in 1971.

Accessible only by water or trail, the park represents a Coastal Douglas Fir rugged seacoast landscape. This type of coastline is an important part of B.C.'s natural landscape which is not represented adequately within our present park system.

The park preserves a beautiful and scenic popular anchorage and marine landscape for the pleasure of boaters and other park visitors (hikers). It offers such activities as walk-in camping, picnicking, viewing, photography, nature study and recreational fishing.

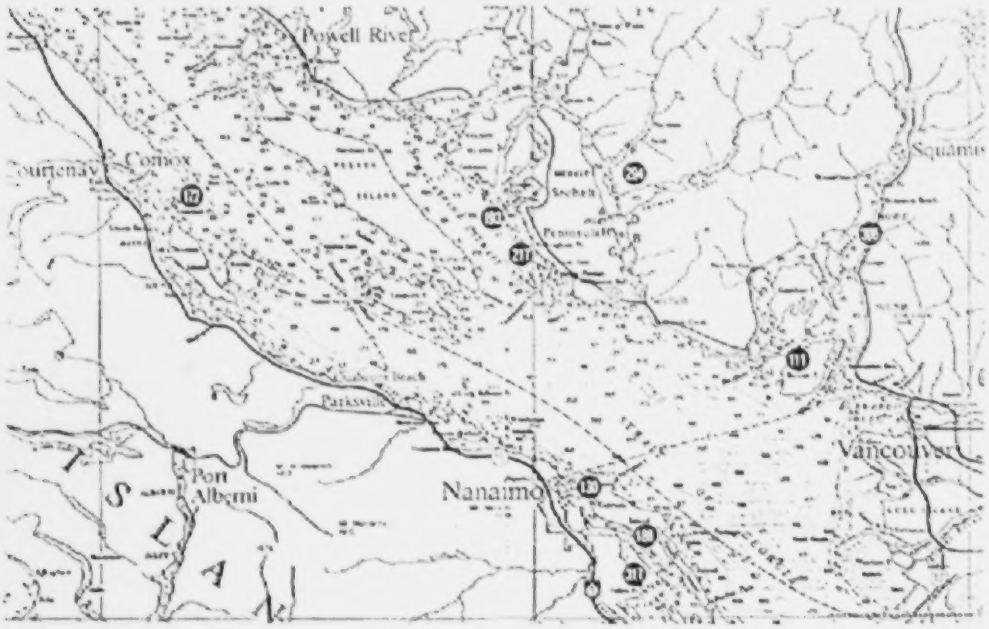

Figure 1: Location Map - Smuggler Cove (217)

B. Regional and Provincial Context

Smuggler Cove Provincial Marine Park is located on the Sunshine Coast in Welcome Passage near Secret Cove. Access to Smuggler Cove is via ferry (30 minutes) from Horseshoe Bay to the Langdale Ferry Terminal. From Langdale it is a forty-five minute drive north on Highway 101 and Brooks Road to the parking lot located in the southeast corner of the park. A 20 minute walk along a trail takes you from the parking lot to the cove.

The flora and fauna of the park is unique in that the area around the park is relatively undeveloped and allows for natural processes such as succession to take place. A rugged seacoast in its natural state is not well represented elsewhere in the Lower Mainland Region.

Smuggler Cove compliments the other provincial parks in the district by offering different opportunities to the public. While Porpoise Bay and Roberts Creek offer family camping and swimming, neither has a suitable anchorage for boaters. Nearby Garden Bay Provincial Park offers limited anchorage and seascape hiking. Smuggler Cove offers all-weather anchorage for up to 60 boats, walk-in camping and additional seacoast hiking opportunities.

Private facilities located at Secret Cove offer boaters moorage, fuel, bait, and overnight accommodations year-round within 10 minutes of Smuggler Cove.

Smuggler Cove Provincial Park will serve regional recreation and tourism markets. The general park objectives are:

1. Preservation – to preserve the special park features.

2. Recreation – to provide transient and destination anchorage for up to 60 boats.
   – to provide day use opportunities and walk-in overnight use.

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

The entrance to Smuggler Cove

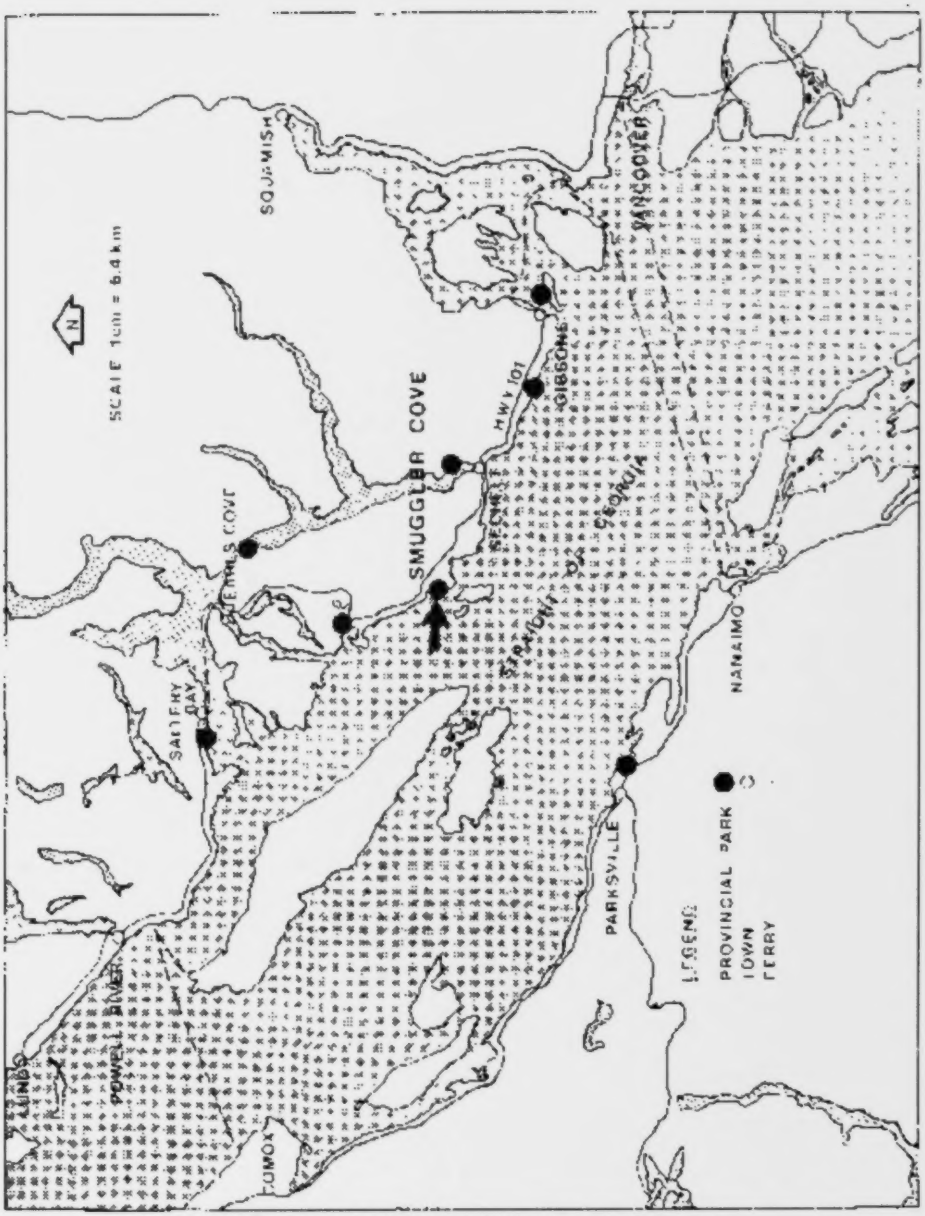

FIG. 2 REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

C. Resources

1. Natural Resources

a) Natural and Regional Landscape

Smuggler Cove Marine Park lies in the Coast Mountain Natural Region in Welcome Passage which is part of the Straight of Georgia Regional Landscape. The park represents a protected cove on a rugged seacoast.

b) Climate

Smuggler Cove has a temperate marine climate characterized by cool, dry summers and mild, rainy winters. The park lies in a rain shadow created by moisture laden clouds passing over the cove until they reach the coastal mountains and drop their precipitation.

Precipitation varies greatly throughout the mountainous inner coast of B.C. Some of the more protected areas on the Sunshine Coast have lower amounts of precipitation while areas situated closer to higher relief receive greater amounts. Appendix I (Page 24) illustrates the variation in summer precipitation and temperature throughout this area.

c) Physiography

The park is made up of a rocky indented coastline which contains a large cove and seven islets. The upland area is made up of gently sloping to steep ground dotted with numerous rock knolls. Some flat saddles and benches are also present in the upland area.

The major influence on the geography of this area was the glacial retreat. This resulted in the gradual rise of the land which had been depressed under the great masses of ice. Since the coastline is considered to have emerged from this ice mass as recently as 11,000 years ago, geologically speaking there has been little time for the sea to influence the coastline.

Soils have been formed primarily by the action of glacial ice and fluvial water processes and are only slightly modified by vegetation. The parent material is glacial till, of varying thickness, over underlying bedrock. There are numerous large rock outcrops of bedrock with sandy or gravel loam in between.

The cove has three main anchorage areas as well as 5 semi-isolated bays. Three of these bays dry out to varying degrees but are suitable anchorage for shallow draught boats.

d) Hydrology

Smuggler Cove features a small stream which flows into the southeast arm of the cove and originates in a swamp. There are a few bogs of various sizes throughout the park which remain wet year round due to the shallowness of the soil and bedrock formations.

The cove ocean bottom consists of bedrock and medium to fine gravel and sand. Typical coastal intertidal marine life such as rock oysters, blue mussels, and barnacles are present.

e) Vegetation

The park lies within the Coastal Douglas Fir Biogeoclimatic Zone (Krajina, 1970) and was logged many years ago. Some characteristic species include Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Red Cedar (*Thuja plicata*), Red Alder (*Alnus rubra*), Pacific Madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*) and Lodgepole Pine (*Pinus contorta*).

Slope, drainage and weather patterns contribute to a "rocky knoll" vegetation. Plants included here are: Huckleberry (*Vaccinium* sp.), Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*) and Oregon Grape (*Mahonia nervosa*).

Grasses and other herbacious plants such as sedges and fern are evident in the wetter areas throughout the park.

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

Typical rocky knoll vegetation of Smuggler Cove.
Many Lodgepole Pine and Pacific Madrone are present.

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

An example of one of the various bogs in the park.

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

An underwater view of the typical intertidal life. Note Pacific Oyster.

f) Fauna

The offshore waters support a variety of marine birds. Intertidal and undersea life includes anemones, rockfish, greenling, starfish, sculpin, oysters, mussels and barnacles.

The presence of suitable terrain and browse species would indicate probable use of the area by Coastal Mule Deer and birds such as the blue grouse.

2. Cultural Resources

a) Archaeological

No archaeological sites have been identified.

b) History

A possible apocryphal story is that Smuggler Cove owes its name to its reported use by Larry Kelly. Kelly, the "King of the Smugglers" who was also known as "Pirate" or "Pig Iron" came up to Canada after fighting for the confederates in the American Civil War. When the Canadian Pacific Railway was completed, many unemployed Chinese workers tried to emigrate to the United States but were forbidden official entry. Kelly assisted the Chinese to cross the border for a fee of $100 each. His insurance against detection was to have the Chinese agree to be roped together and tied to a large hunk of pig iron. If there was a chance that "Pig Iron" would be apprehended by U.S. customs, he would throw the iron and Chinese overboard.[1]

The Cove also served as a storage area for liquor manufactured in a large still near Cook Bay on Texada Island in the 1920's. From Smuggler Cove it was loaded into fast boats and smuggled across the border into the United States.

After the purchase of properties during 1966 to 1968 (see Appendix 1), Smuggler Cove was established in 1971 as a class "A", category 6 provincial marine park. The only tenures in the park are life tenancy on parcel #5, D.L. 6398, Group 1, N.W.D. for Mr. J. McLaughlin.

1 Wolferstan, Bill. 1982. *Pacific Yachting's Cruising Guide to British Columbia, Vol. III – Sunshine Coast. Fraser Estuary and Vancouver to Jervis Inlet*.

3. Visual Resources

Smuggler Cove Marine Park offers visitors some spectacular views of Thormanby, Texada, and Vancouver Islands as well as the Strait of Georgia. Throughout the year, the park offers a chance to see an undeveloped natural seacoast landscape and the flora and fauna that reside in it.

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

A view of Smuggler Cove from the Eastern headland.

4. Analysis

a) Major Opportunities and Constraints

Climatic Resources

Opportunities	Constraints
– moderate climate permits year round use of the park.	– fall and winter rains may discourage use in these seasons.

Physiographic Resources

Opportunities	Constraints
– combination of rocky knolls and bogs offer a variety of experience. – some soils will withstand wear moderately well.	– knolls and bogs limit trail construction. – sensitivity to human presence.

Hydrological Resources

Opportunities	Constraints
- sufficient water depth for anchorage of most boats. sheltered anchorage.	– summer overcrowding - pollution in the cove. – no potable water is available in the park.

Vegetation Resources

Opportunities	Constraints
– variety of vegetation attracts naturalists and photographers.	– regeneration is slow on the shallower soils and vegetation is easily damaged on these areas. – sensitivity to human presence.

Wildlife Resources

Opportunities	Constraints
– good place to observe marine bird life. – tidal pools offer opportunities to observe rocky coastline fauna. – possibilities of observing mule deer and small mammals.	– no major conflicts between wildlife habitat and recreational use.

Cultural Resources

Opportunities	Constraints
– opportunity to include historical information in regional interpretive programs. (Smuggling of Chinese labourers and liquor).	– no proof of smuggling enterprises actually taking place.

Visual Resources

Opportunities	Constraints
– viewing of scenery, flora and fauna in park; Georgia Strait and islands.	– no known conflicts between recreational use and visual resources.

D. Land Tenures, Occupancy Rights and Jurisdictions

1. Leases and Use Permits

P.U.P #1101 – held by the Canadian Coast Guard for the installation and maintenance of a day beacon. The permit is on a 10 year basis and expires on April 30, 1991.

2. Fee Simple Lands

Inholding – subject to riparian rights of Mr. R. M. Mather, parcel #3, D.L. 6398 Group 1, N.W.D.

Life Occupancy – Mr. J. McLaughlin, parcel #5, D.L. 6398, Group 1, N.W.D.

3. Other Tenures

None

4. Trespasses

None

5. Mineral Claims

None

6. Statutory Jurisdiction

a) Hunting Regulations

Hunting, shooting and discharge of firearms is prohibited in the park.

b) Fishing Regulations

Park visitors are subject to federal government fishing regulations.

c) Water Licenses

None

7. Major Additions and Boundary Adjustments

Consideration should be given to purchase parcel #3, D.L. 6398, Group 1, N.W.D. from Mr. R. M. Mather as soon as possible.

E. Existing Facilities

A parking lot and Type II information shelter are located in the southeast corner of the park. A trail leaves the parking lot and travels west to the southeast arm of Smuggler Cove.

Five walk-in campsites and a pit toilet will be located at the southeast arm of the Cove during the summer of 1985.

A cabin, float and outbuildings are located on parcel #6, D.L. 6398, Group 1, N.W.D. A cabin and a float are also located on parcel #5 of the same lot description where Mr. J. McLaughlin has life occupancy rights. Refer to Figure 3: Existing Facilities Map for exact locations (Page 12).

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

The parking lot and information shelter in the southeast corner of the park.

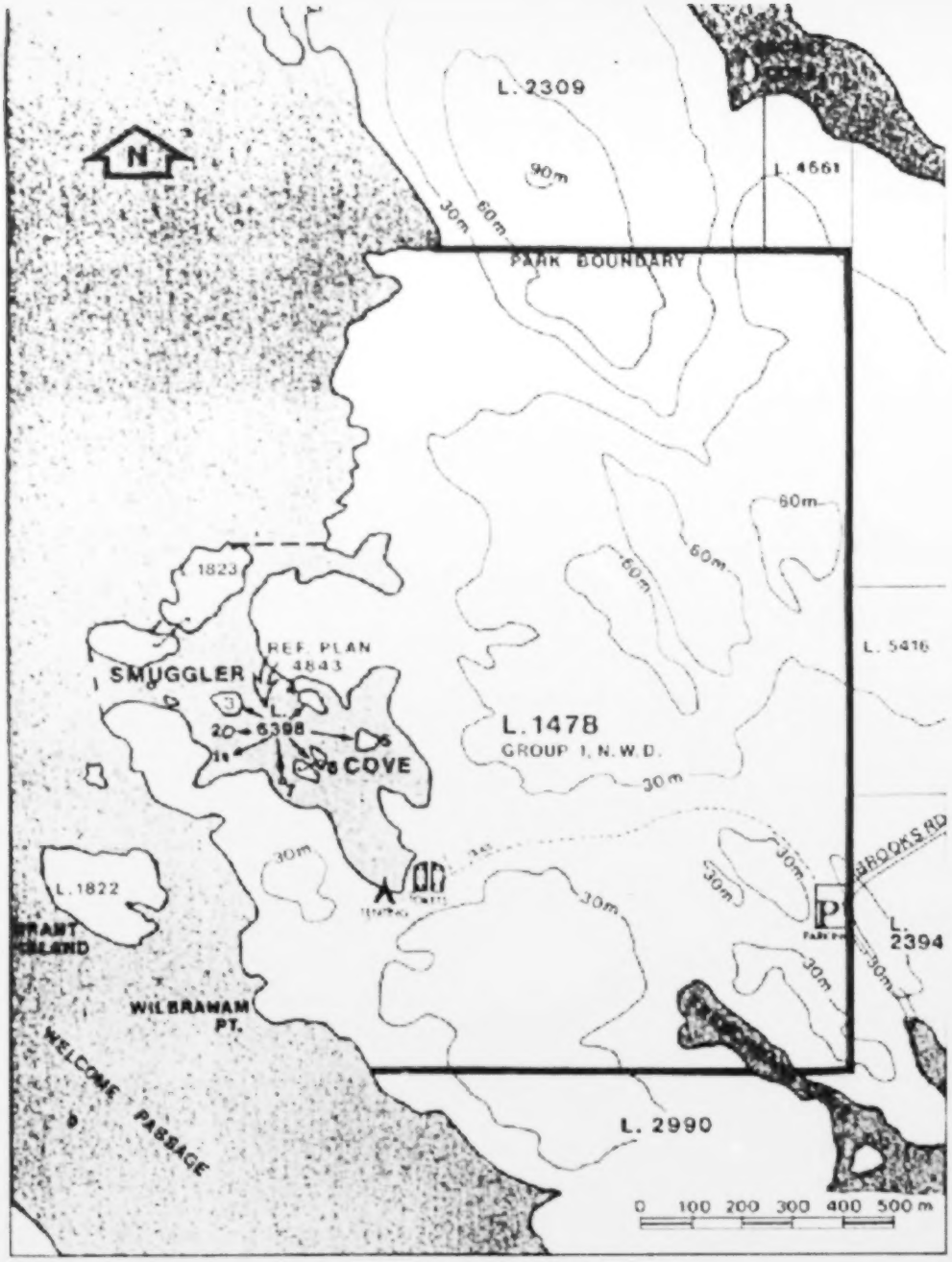

FIG 3 : EXISTING FACILITIES

F. Market Analysis

1. Existing Use

The market serving the park objectives, local residents and visitors to the area includes:

- day use touring (hiking, photography, tidal pool investigation)

- fishing

- day use destination (picnicking, camping)

- overnight moorage, both transient and destination

Smuggler Cove would satisfy both transient and destination boaters and hikers. Available use figures indicate that up to 60 boats/night use Smuggler Cove during peak times from July 1 to mid August. A 1983 survey estimated 467 party nights from July 1 to August 31.

2. Supply and Demand

Smuggler Cove serves a dual function offering scenic and sheltered moorage to boaters and hiking and walk-in camping opportunities to users of Highway 101. Annual visitation to the Sunshine Coast has significantly increased between 1972 – 1980, with future levels projected to increase annually by 6 – 10%.

The demand for waterfront recreation is one of the most significant recreational issues on the Sunshine Coast. The Sunshine Coast Regional District has put considerable importance on recreational development in the area through their Regional Plan. Before the Regional District acquired the park function, much of the waterfront property was privately owned, which resulted in a serious lack of public waterfront recreation. The S.C.R.D. presently has no campgrounds but are planning to develop day use facilities at Ruby Lake in 1985.

There are a number of private facilities located in the area surrounding Smuggler Cove. They offer a variety of services including approximately 100 campsites, motels, boat rentals/charters, boat launches, laundry facilities, fishing supplies and diver's air.

G. Planning Issues

The major planning issue is the retention of Smuggler Cove in its natural state.

Development and management proposals will be oriented to satisfying this issue.

PART II: THE PLAN

A. Specific Objectives for Smuggler Cove Marine Park

The objectives for this park are:

1. To preserve Smuggler Cove in a natural state and to provide quality recreational use of its features.

2. To provide a variety of park opportunities associated with walk in/viewing, camping, hiking and picnicking in a natural setting.

PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

A view of the three developed islets.

B. Zoning

The park is divided into two zones: "Natural Preservation" and "Development." The rationale for zoning is as follows:

1. Natural Zone – this includes all the areas designated to remain in a relatively natural state with trails as the only form of development.

2. Development Zone – includes all the areas to be developed for picnicking, camping and trail use and where conservation values are low.

Figure 4: Zone Boundaries shows the location of the two zones.

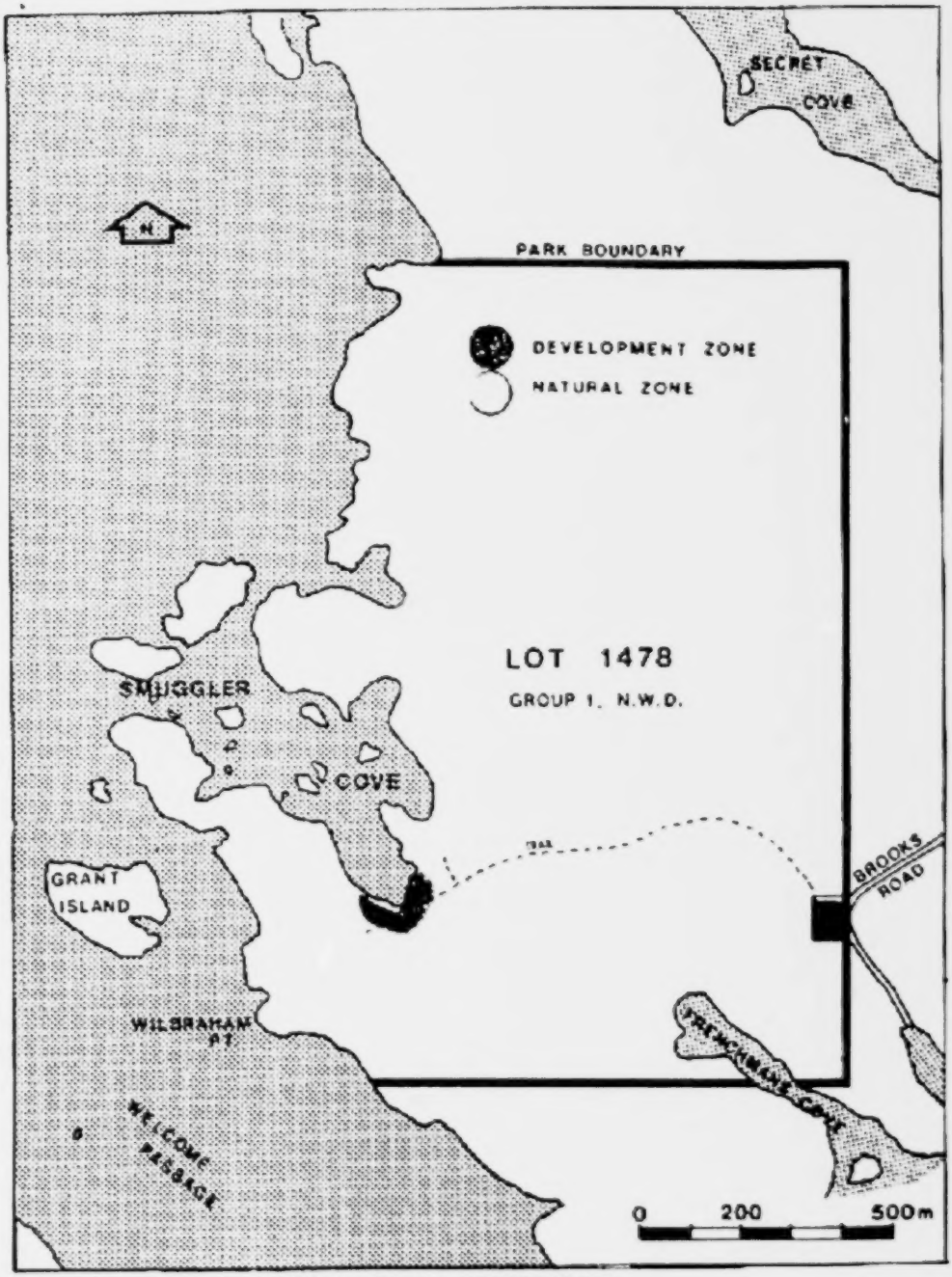

FIG 4: ZONE BOUNDARIES

C. Development Plan

Smuggler Cove Marine Park will serve primarily as an all-weather protected anchorage for transient and destination boaters with secondary local day use and overnight walk-in camping.

Stage I – improve sections of walk in campsites and associated sanitary/information facilities at Smuggler Cove.
– install sanitary facilities at trailhead.

Stage II – installation of cove perimeter spur trails to viewpoints and Frenchmans Cove.

Improved walk-in campsites along with associated sanitary/information.

Additional sanitary facilities will also be located near the existing parking lot trailhead.

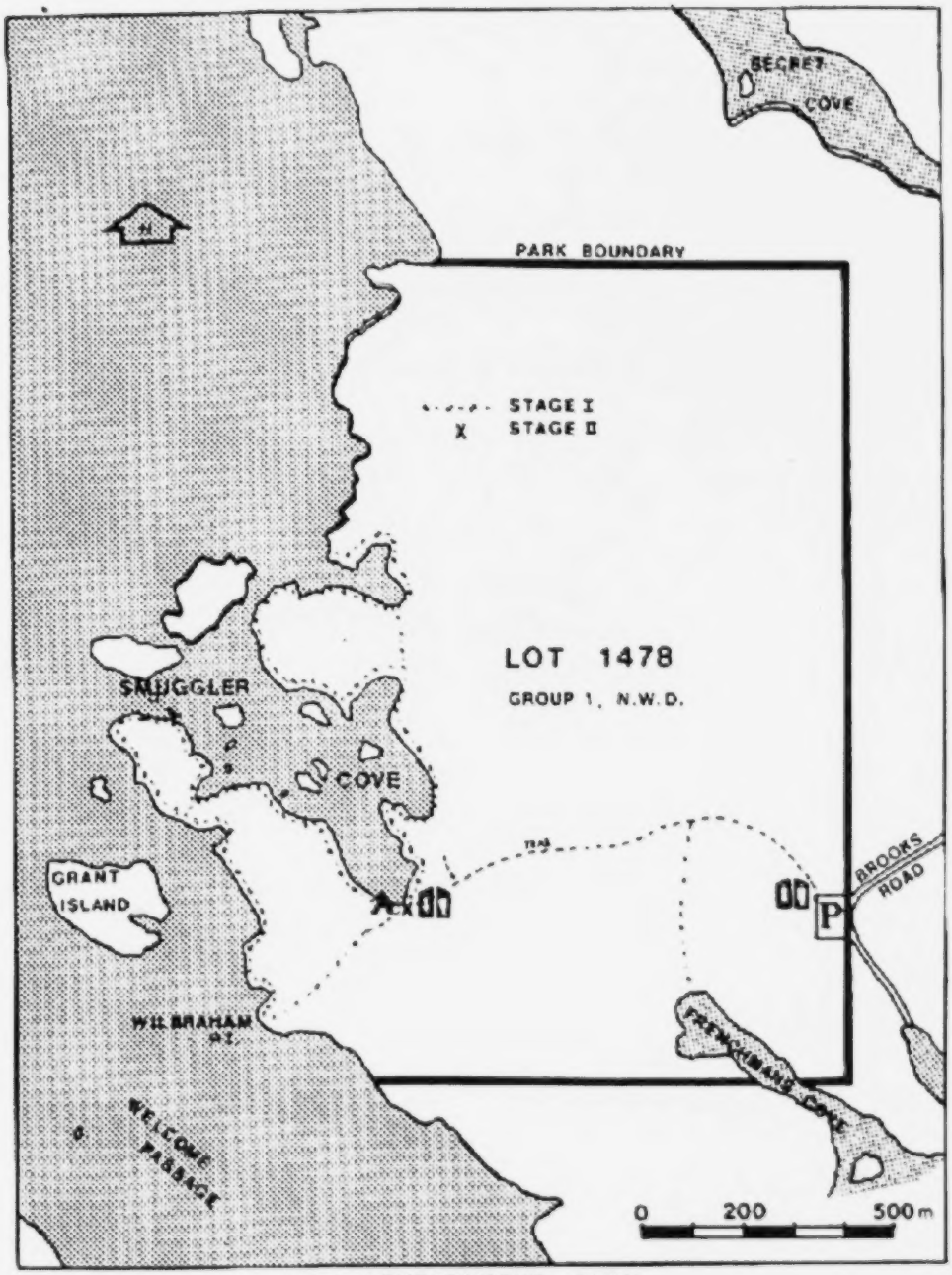

FIG. 5 - DEVELOPMENT PLAN

D. Policies for Management and Planning

1. Resources

a) Land

- ensure protection of park land from development
- acquisition of land inholdings

b) Water

- develop water supply if demand requires and funds become available

c) Vegetation

- new development should be designed so as to avoid damage to sensitive plant communities

d) Wildlife

- no special concerns or recommendations

e) Cultural

- include references to the smuggling of unemployed Chinese labourers and liquor as part of interpretive plan

2. Public Use

a) Recreation

Acceptable types of recreation in the park are viewing, nature study, picnicking, photography, walk-in camping, recreational fishing and boating.

b) Education

Attraction for educational use due to presence of tidal pools, bogs/knolls, and a natural Coastal Douglas Fir forest.

c) Research

Allow non-destructive educational research under a park use permit.

d) Concessions

None

e) Leases

f) Use Permits

Allow permits for safe, non-destructive educational use.

g) Special and Other Uses

None

E. Marketing & Information Program

In conjunction with the Sunshine Coast Regional District the plan will promote the "natural" area of the park and encourage boater use. It will also make reference to the history of Smuggler Cove.

The park should be mentioned in brochures, maps, and marine-oriented publications.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX I

Background to the Establishment of Smuggler Cove Marine Park.

May 12, 1966 – D.L. 1478 and D.L. 1823, Group 1, N.W.D. containing 408.2 acres purchased from Mr. Iver B. Jorgenson. O.I.C. #1443 Conv. #7419 and 7420 C.T. 621317L and 621318L

May 16, 1968 – Parcels 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7 of D.L. 6398, Ref. Plan 4843, Group 1, N.W.D. being five small islands purchased from Mr. Willard J. McLaughlin. O.I.C. #1566 Conv. #7058 C.T. 592085L

November 5, 1968 – Parcel 6 of D.L. 6398, Ref. Plan 4843, Group 1, N.W.D. being a small island purchased from J. D. McLaughlin. O.I.C. #3468 Conv. #7280 C.T. 607144L

July 27, 1971 – Smuggler Cove Marine Park established as a Class A Park over the above lands containing 410 acres, more or less and 40 acres of foreshore. O.I.C. 2690

APPENDIX II

SMUGGLER COVE MARINE PARK DESCRIPTION

The area described below has been established as a Class "A", Category 6 Provincial Park.

firstly	District Lot 1478, Group 1, New Westminster District;
secondly	District Lot 1823, Group 1, New Westminster District;
thirdly	Parcel 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 (Reference Plan 4843)
	District Lot 6398, Group 1, New Westminster District.

AND

All that foreshore contained within Smuggler Cove (Clyde Cove) and fronting on portions of District Lots 1478 and 1823, Group 1, New Westminster District, more particularly shown coloured red on the sketch attached hereto, and subject to the riparian rights of the owner of Parcel 3 (Reference Plan 4843) D.L. 6398, Group 1, New Westminster District, and containing approximately 410 acres of upland and 40 acres of foreshore.

Smuggler Cove Foreshore Description

The area described below has been reserved for the use, recreation and enjoyment of the public:

"The waters contained within Smuggler Cove (Clyde Gove), except part covered by License of Occupation (file 0202900); fronting on a portion of District Lot 1478, Group 1, New Westminster District.

Map Reserve
Est. 16-82-55
0208478
R.M. 5B A-1 P.M. 2A
Located Northwest of Halfmoon Bay on the Sechelt Peninsula
B.G.
11-1-56

APPENDIX III: Summer Precipitation and Average Temperature, Sunshine Coast and Vancouver Area

Location	May	June	July	August	Sept.
Gibsons					
Temperature (°C)	11.8	14.3	16.8	16.7	13.9
# Days Rain	10	10	5	8	12
Precipitation amt. (mm)	73.9	53.9	50.7	55.9	105.2
Gower Point					
Temperature (°C)	12.2	14.9	17.3	17.3	14.7
# Days Rain	11	10	7	9	11
Precipitation amt. (mm)	53.3	45.6	46.3	54.4	83.2
Merry Island					
Temperature (°C)	12.4	15.5	17.6	17.7	14.7
# Days Rain	11	10	6	7	10
Precipitation amt. (mm)	48.3	44.5	38.6	44.3	62.6
Vancouver Airport					
Temperature (°C)	12.2	15.1	17.3	17.1	14.2
# Days Rain	10	10	6	8	10
Precipitation amt. (mm)	51.6	45.2	32.0	41.1	67.1
North Vancouver - Cloverley					
Temperature (°C)	12.2	14.9	17.6	17.6	14.7
# Days Rain	12	13	6	10	11
Precipitation amt. (mm)	93.1	75.6	57.1	66.1	105.5

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